

State Advisory Committee (SAC) For the Education of Children with Disabilities

Advising the NH Department of Education per RSA 186-C:3-b

NHDOE, Room 15

4:30pm – 6:00pm

March 2, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Attended: SAC Members

Maureen Tracey (Chair), Bonnie Dunham (co-chair), Violetta Lortie, Heidi Cloutier, Jean Parsons, , Maureen Shields, Lisa Hatz, Janet Reed, Lisa Beaudion, Ann Davis, Kerri-Lynn Kimner, Mary Ellen Pantazis, Mary Heath

Guest(s):

Santina Thibedeau, Administrator, Bureau of Special Education, Sarah Fox (for Eileen Mullen), Alan Parady, Executive Director NHASEA, Jacqueline Kelleher, nominee

Welcome, Introductions of SAC Members & Guests

- Maureen began the meeting at approximately 4:33pm
- All attendees introduced themselves and stated their role

Nominations:

Jaqueline Kelleher, member, parent category, Jacqueline was an active member of SAC council in Connecticut. (This is the first visit, decide at 2nd visit, then vote and submit)

Spoke with Kim Carter from Making Community Connections is interested in joining on behalf of charter schools. Naomi Sheffield from Rivier University looking to attend in April on behalf of University.

Approval of Minutes

No Quorum – unable to approval tonight.

Public Comment & Announcements

None

Legislative Updates Bonnie reviewed her Legislative Updates with SAC members.

See handout. Each lists prime sponsor or you can contact Bonnie and she can tell you how to contact.

Not many public hearings scheduled, reach out to legislature/representatives directly for ones you or your stakeholder group feel strongly about.

Fiscal note: LSR comes in, sent to whichever agency is best able to define a cost to implement the bill, then attached to bill which goes to committee. Finance committee looks at cost associated with it. Goes through house committee, house finance committee, senate committee, senate finance committee and can get killed at any stage. Fiscal note is on the website when you look the bill up.

Update from the Bureau of Special Education ~ Santina

The Bureau's independent evaluator, Pingora, is here; met with Bureau staff today for follow-up questions. Meeting with SAC for the 3rd time tonight; no mandate to participate as there have been other opportunities.

Pingora will wrap up their visit Friday with Bureau staff for any other documents owed prior to the submittal of their draft report.

Memo out about Procedural Safeguards; change was the removal of a typo.

Rule Making – intend to be at the State Board on March 24th to ask permission to enter into rule making. No public comment specific to this. When they hold public comment the Bureau will notify SAC. Santina can go through all the changes in the rules with SAC.

Representatives can give public comment for SAC and individuals can give public comment on their own. It may be more helpful to the State Board if they hear how many changes you are in agreement with as well as the ones disagreed with.

New Project: for 12 new special education directors (new – between 0-3 years' experience, Alt 4), the Bureau will have 12 experienced special education directors be their mentors. The Bureau will select 12 mentors, then will send out a memo for 12 new directors to self-select with their Superintendent signing that they know this is occurring.

Discussion about what credentials would be required to be a special education administrator under Alt 4.

Bureau's mentor piece will focus on State activities that special education directors need to be knowledgeable about, fiscal, CAT AID, court ordered, surrogate parents, charter schools, etc. State level responsibilities that they need good information about. There will be a stipend for the mentors.

Guest coming tonight – Re: 186:C-5. Enforcement actions, after review Commissioner may post findings and corrective actions on website. Example: Lakeview. All monitoring reports, public and private are posted on our website.

Questions:

Monitoring teams: who does the training? The Bureau does district selection (risk rubric), notify district, meet with district to go over process, train staff on self-assessment. For parents on the monitoring team? We have not had parents on monitoring teams in a long time; as was problematic due to confidentiality. Also, IDEA does not require parents participate in the general supervision which is what the Bureau monitors.

What does NH do that's unique? Special monitoring? NH is unique in the approval process of individual special education programs in buildings. Other States there are no barriers to providing students the education they need. The current NH approval process can delay providing students education. The fact that we look at forms in monitoring is unique. The only form NH provides is Written Prior Notice. Reconsideration of complaints can extend process up to 89 days. Pingora is questioning if this is honoring the intent of IDEA to have decision in 60 days.

Problematic practices identified during monitoring in the last report.

Pingora questioned shortened day – the Bureau is looking to take out in rule making. Home instruction as well.

OSEP is looking for differentiated monitoring.

New Business, Emerging Issues, Announcements, Current Events, Public Comment

SAC developing by-laws (Bonnie): We're not doing today; asking members to sign up and send out survey monkey when members can get together to go over by laws. Then approve at a meeting without taking up everyone's time.

John Coperhaver – wrote the letter clarifying making up services when students are not in school; John will be here on May 9th to provide technical assistance to the SAC members on the charge of State Advisory Committees.

Old Business:

Incarcerated Youth – due to Pingora's visit will be talked about next time to make an action plan or close. Maureen will send out an e-mail asking for suggestions around unmet needs so we are aware of what people want to address around the two presentations. Are there unmet needs? Very few identified students; those that are, are receiving services or declined. Confidentiality – what makes it okay to share these lists with DOE?

Can minutes be shared until their approved? No. As a body created through legislation you are better off waiting to share until the minutes are approved.

New business:

Lisa Hatz would like to provide an update to SAC in the next meeting or two on Voc Rehab.

Heidi Cloutier – has resources/handouts regarding upcoming conferences and favorite resources.

Maureen – spoke with school psychologists' association; they would like to come to SAC., blending of mental health services in schools; different arrays of services not just testing.

Public Comment:

Alan Pardy – if you have a student with IEP, 504 you have to make accommodations. Running Start says no. Possible issue for SAC to look into. Running Start classes can be used to get credit for a high school class.

At 6:00 pm Bonnie made a motion to adjourn, Kerri seconded. All in agreement. Motion passes.

Next meeting ~ Wednesday, April 6, 4:30pm-7:00pm ~ NHDOE, Room 15